

**DOUGLAS A. DUCEY**  
- GOVERNOR -



**VICTORIA WHITMORE**  
- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -

**ARIZONA STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD**

1740 W. ADAMS ST., STE. 4600, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

PHONE (602) 364-1-PET (1738) • FAX (602) 364-1039

VETBOARD.AZ.GOV

**INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION REPORT**

**TO:** Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board

**FROM:** Investigative Division

**RE:** Case: 20-124

Complainant(s): Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board

Respondent(s): Helena Carner, DVM (License: 6726)

**SUMMARY:**

Complaint Received at Board Office: 6/17/20

Board Discussion: 8/19/20

**APPLICABLE STATUTES AND RULES:**

Laws as Amended August 2018  
(Lime Green); Rules as Revised  
September 2013 (Yellow)

On June 17, 2020, the Board voted to open an investigation with respect to Respondent allowing an unlicensed person to provide ozone therapy to publically owned horses without supervision.

**PROPOSED 'FINDINGS of FACT':**

1. On June 17, 2020, the Board voted to open an investigation after reviewing information regarding Respondent's conduct. The Board expressed concerns that Respondent may be allowing an unlicensed person, Ms. April Vernon, provide veterinary services to publically owned animals unsupervised and without a veterinary license.
2. On June 30, 2020, a letter was sent to Respondent notifying her of the open investigation and asking her to reply.
3. On July 6, 2020, Respondent responded to the allegations; Respondent stated that Ms. Vernon is not a veterinarian and she does refer patients to Ms. Vernon for ozone therapy, as well as Equiscope and body work therapies. Respondent feels that horses respond better to these therapies when paired together with the ozone.
4. Respondent stated that she met Ms. Vernon as a client while performing ozone therapy on a horse of hers. After the horse responded to favorably, Ms. Vernon obtained specialized ozone training on her own. Additionally, Respondent has trained Ms. Vernon in the appropriate administration of ozone to horses. She also provides Ms. Vernon with the appropriate materials to perform the service. Respondent further stated that she does not directly supervise Ms. Vernon during these treatments, but they often work at the same facility therefore Respondent has observed her therapies and her ozone administration techniques. She also developed a protocol in order for Ms. Vernon to perform this service to Respondent's clients. Ms. Vernon is performing ozone therapy on these horses per Respondent's request and recommendation, and they discuss cases and their developments daily.
5. Respondent states that Ms. Vernon is not sedating horses, or administering any pharmaceuticals – this is strictly an IV administration of ozone.

*The information contained in this report was obtained from the case file, which includes the complaint, the respondent's response, any consulting veterinarian or witness input, and any other sources used to gather information for the investigation.*

TR

---

Tracy A. Riendeau, CVT  
Investigative Division



July 5, 2020

Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board  
1740 W. Adams Street, Ste. 4600  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
(602) 364-1-1738

Re: 20-124, In Re: Helena Carner, DVM

Dear Tracy and Members of the Arizona Veterinary Medical Examining Board,

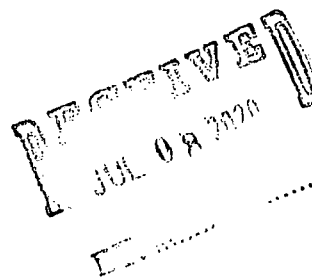
I have been asked to respond to a recent complaint case numbered 20-124. The question posed was regarding my possible involvement with Ms. April Vernon offering Ozone therapy to publicly owned animals without supervision of a veterinarian. It is true that April is not a veterinarian and that I do refer patients to her for ozone therapy, as well as Equiscope and bodywork therapies. It is my experience that horses respond much better to these therapies when paired together with the ozone. I met April as a client while performing ozone therapy on a horse of hers. After her horse responded so favorably to the ozone, she obtained specialized ozone training on her own terms. More recently, I have trained April in the appropriate administration of ozone to horses. I also provide her with the appropriate materials to perform this service. As far as supervision, I have attached the protocol that we have developed in order for her to perform this service for my clients. I do not directly supervise Ms. April Vernon during each of these treatments, but we often work at the same facility, and so I have observed her therapies and her ozone administration techniques. We also discuss these cases and their developments daily. Ms. April Vernon is performing ozone therapy on these horses per my request and at my recommendation. To clarify, April is not sedating horses, or administering any pharmaceuticals. This is strictly an intravenous administration of ozone.

Thank you for your time and investigation into this case. If I can be of any further assistance, or if The Board has any recommendations, I am eager to learn from this experience and improve my protocols. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Helena Carner, DVM*

Helena Carner, DVM  
Legacy Veterinary Services, LLC  
(928)853-9756  
[legacyvetservices@gmail.com](mailto:legacyvetservices@gmail.com)





## Ozone Therapy Administration Protocol

\*April Vernon\*

1. Dr. Carner has authorized April Vernon to administer ozone therapy to patients in which this therapy has been deemed appropriate
2. Prior to ozone administration Dr. Carner will inform April of any pertinent details of the case
3. Ozone is administered only intravenously by agreed upon methods and with approved supplies
4. If either April or the client have any concerns Dr. Carner is to be contacted immediately
5. After ozone has been administered, either April or Dr. Carner will follow-up with the client in the following days and document both the treatment and the follow-up conversation

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY  
GOVERNOR



VICTORIA WHITMORE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## ARIZONA STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

1740 W. ADAMS STREET, SUITE 4600, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

PHONE (602) 364-1-PET FAX (602) 364-1039

VETBOARD.AZ.GOV

September 24, 2020

Helena Carner, DVM

email: [REDACTED]

### LETTER OF CONCERN – 20-124 - In Re: Helena Carner, DVM

Dear Dr. Carner:

At its meeting on September 16, 2020, the Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board considered information presented in the complaint case opened by the Board regarding your work with April A. Vernon, who provides ozone therapy treatments to publicly-owned horses.

In each case, the Board considers the situation and the professional's response, as well as all relevant information. In this matter, after review and discussion, the Board voted to issue you a Letter of Concern pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2234(D). This Letter of Concern is regarding your use and support of an unlicensed practitioner (Ms. Vernon) who has been known to provide treatments to animals without your knowledge and who is not employed by you.

A Letter of Concern is defined in A.R.S. § 32-2201(12) as "...an advisory letter to notify a veterinarian that, while there is insufficient evidence to support disciplinary action about certain aspects of the case, the Board believes the veterinarian should modify or eliminate certain practices and that continuation of the activities that led to the information being submitted to the Board may result in action against the veterinarian's license."

We hope you will take this advisory letter in the spirit that it is intended to avoid any other potential violations in the future.

Respectfully,  
FOR THE BOARD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Whitmore".

Victoria Whitmore  
Executive Director